

MRS. VAWTER ON STAND

Exposes Her Own Shame and Freely
Bares Life of Marital Infidelity and
Disgraceful Conduct.

Christiansburg, Va., May 4.—Freely sacrificing her good name to save from prison or worse the man whom she had sworn to love, honor and obey, Mrs. Charles E. Vawter took the stand as a witness yesterday afternoon for her husband, who is being tried here for killing Stockton Heth, Jr., and before a crowded courtroom made a confession of marital infidelity that probably stands without a parallel in the annals of Virginia criminality.

Without a blush for the shame she confessed to, without a tremor in her voice, she admitted that she had been intimate with Heth on more than one occasion, and that when her husband's suspicions had been aroused both she and Heth had lied to him and in that way regained his confidence.

Her confession was the climax to a series of sensations, equaling if not surpassing, anything ever brought out in a murder trial in this State. It was astonishing to hear a woman so completely blast her own reputation; the nonchalant way in which she blasted it was even more astonishing. Again and again she declared she was telling the truth. After she left the stand one of Vawter's attorneys said privately that he had told her no less than five minutes she would never be justified in swearing away her good name to save her husband unless her story was true and that each time she had said: "It is true, and I am going to tell it."

Mrs. Vawter was placed upon the witness stand after the failure of an attempt to bring about an early ending of the trial by having her husband interpose a plea of insanity. It was said that the prosecution was willing to allow Vawter to plead insanity at the time of the shooting, if he would admit that he was still insane. His attorneys, however, declined to enter into such an agreement. They were willing for him to be regarded as insane when he shot Heth, but they did not want him declared insane at the present time; and so the plan to end the trial abruptly failed.

But to go back to Mrs. Vawter's testimony. Briefly summoned, it was to the effect that she had been in Heth's room for two hours on the night her husband caught her coming out of there last May; that her relations with Heth while she was in the room were improper; that, afterward in November, she had been guilty of improper conduct with Heth, and in order to avert the suspicions of her husband she had put the blame on a woman who was visiting her when Professor Vawter noticed things that caused him to ask questions. Finally, she admitted that she was in Heth's room on the night of the shooting about 10 or 15 minutes, just before the shooting, but she declared that he had come to the door, caught her and dragged her in when she went into the hall to get some medicine to give one of her children.

On top of all this, she admitted that she was completely under the influence of Heth, or, as she expressed it, he had gained her affection.

She also contended that she had never been indiscreet with him, except when she had been drinking, and she swore that she was intoxicated that night in May when she left Prof. Vawter drunk on the parlor sofa and went with Heth to his bedroom. She was so intoxicated, she said, that she remembers but little after leaving the porch until she heard Prof. Vawter coming up the stairs, when she made a dash for her own room, leaving her clothing behind her.

Not all of Mrs. Vawter's statements regarding her relations with Stockton Heth were brought out on her direct examination. It took the cross-examination, conducted by Attorney Lee, to bring out all of the facts, but when he asked questions there was no attempt to make evasive replies. By her confession she proved that Professor Vawter, after what he had seen, might be expected to experience the worry which the defense claims, along with excessive

PIERCE GERMAN LINE

Sir Douglas Haig's Infantry Makes
A Crushing Drive on the Western
Front.

London, May 4.—The British have pierced the Hindenburg line.

Half an hour after the moon had gone down Sir Douglas Haig's infantry legions leaped forth from their trenches over the parapets yesterday morning and smashed ahead on a twelve-mile front—between the region south of Lens and Croiselles—in the most crushing drive recorded this year.

The Canadians in the fore, they broke through that wall of flesh and steel that has been named after the idol of the Teutons and upon the firmness of which all Germany had pinned its faith in victory.

A network of formidable trenches, field works, hills and dugouts fell to their onslaught, and late this evening the Canadians were firmly established in the village of Fresnoy, to the southeast of Lens and a mile beyond Arleux, where the last British thrust had been checked.

The British thus pushed the "pistol point" of their advance a mile closer to the Lens-Douai railroad, capture of which would spell disaster to the Teutons.

Paris, May 4.—The French in their operations between Soissons and Aubervilliers, according to an official statement, have, since April 16 captured nearly 23,000 prisoners, 175 field and heavy guns, 412 machine guns, 119 trench guns and mortars, without taking into account vast quantities of material of different kinds, stores, provisions and munitions.

The Germans, who had 43 divisions in reserve behind the Franco-British front, according to the latest information, have been obliged since April 9, to throw in 33 of these divisions, and by April 27, seventeen divisions, badly cut up had already been withdrawn to the rear to be reorganized.

SEEKS TAXES ON CEMETERY

Hustings Court of Richmond Hears
Argument Involving Hollywood
Association Surplus.

Whether or not a surplus of \$445,896 accumulated by the Hollywood Cemetery Association is liable to taxation was the question argued before Judge Richardson in hustings court in Richmond yesterday. The state of Virginia trying to collect taxes on the surplus from 1903 to 1916, inclusive, the sum sought being \$19,818.10, which includes penalty and interest. Leslie C. Garnett, assistant attorney general, appeared for the state, and M. M. Gilliam argued the question in behalf of the association.

Virginia state constitution, it was stated, clearly exempts land owned by such an organization from taxation, but it was contended by counsel for the state that it does not exempt surplus funds, although they are used only for purchase of additional land and for improvement and general upkeep purposes. Judge Richardson took the question under advisement at the conclusion of the argument. The city, which is also laying claim to taxes, did not participate in argument today, its assessment not having been completed, it was stated. Its taxes would be approximately four times those of the state.

alcoholism, deranged him mentally. She admitted that Heth had taken liberties with her even before the night in May when her husband caught her coming from Heth's room and had his suspicious aroused for the first time. Counsel, however, objected to questions relating to matters antedating the beginning of Prof. Vawter's suspicions, and the objection was sustained.

Mrs. Vawter was not asked if she had had improper relations with Heth on the night of the shooting. She merely testified that after retiring, she had been aroused by the coughing of her daughter. She got up and went into the hall to get a bottle of medicine to give the child a dose. Heth, she said, heard her and called her name. She answered and Heth told her to come into his room. She refused and he came to the door, caught her and drew her into the room. So far as she remembers the door was not closed.

Alexandria City and Suburbs

The Seventh Day Adventist Church will hold its usual Sabbath School and preaching service at the Odd Fellows Hall Saturday afternoon, the Sabbath School from two o'clock until three, and preaching service at three fifteen. All are cordially invited to attend these services by the pastor, Elder F. E. Gibson.

The Rev. Jared Haylen, of Maryland Park, will preach and conduct communion services at the Christian Mission, 1315 King street, this city, next Sunday at 3 p. m. Sunday School will be held at 2:30.

The Young People's building was filled last night with a capacity audience to hear the excellent program presented by some of Alexandria's best talent for the benefit of the children's free ward in the new hospital. The St. Paul's quartette, Mrs. Harrie White, Mrs. Sherman Bruce Fowler, Mr. Kenneth W. Ogden and Mr. Wilmer Joyce Waller, is always a treat to music lovers. The soloists were Miss Margaret Pattie Finks, Mrs. Robert F. Downham and Mr. Wilmer Joyce Waller, all singers of note. Miss Julia Duncan's recitation of "The Song of the Lark" was, as always, splendid. One of the most enjoyable features of the evening was the piano duet by Miss Ella Hill and Mr. Frederick P. Russell. The accompanists were Miss Ella Hill, Mrs. Frederick P. Russell and Mr. Sherman Bruce Fowler.

TRAVELERS MEET TODAY.

Twenty-Sixth Annual Convention to
Open With Elaborate Program of
Entertainment.

Petersburg, Va., May 4.—The Virginia Division, Travelers' Protective Association, opened in the Lyric Theater Building in this city at 11 o'clock this morning. The delegates were welcomed to the city by Mayor Robert Gilliam, and the response was made by President C. S. Johnson, of Roanoke. A business session followed, at which reports of officers and committees were received. In the afternoon the delegation will be given a ride in automobile and near the city, including the beautiful old Blandford Church memorial, the Lakemont mobilization site and Hopewell. Saturday's session will be devoted to business and election of officers. The banquet in honor of the delegates will be given at the Hotel Petersburg tonight. Many of the prominent business men of the State are delegates to the convention.

As stated in the Gazette yesterday the delegates from Post "F," of this city, in attendance are Messrs. M. L. Price, Albert D. Brockett, Hunt Russell, O. H. Kirk, Robert E. Knight, Clyde C. Lamond, V. Ward Boswell, Wallace N. Lindsey, Richard Gibson, T. Harvey Henshaw, T. A. Sommers, J. William May and William H. T. Brooke.

RHEIMS CATHEDRAL A RUIN

Roof Collapses in Five Places, Walls
Tottering, Says Cardinal.

Paris, May 4.—Cardinal Luçon, describing the present condition of Rheims cathedral in a letter to a friend says: "The outside apse is completely destroyed, three flying buttresses are broken, numerous pinnacles are smashed off or thrown down, the main body of the edifice in greater part knocked down, the walls have received injuries which threaten their stability and the towers are seriously damaged. The roof and vaulting have collapsed in five places, the south transept and chancel are in ruins and the baptismal font are crushed, while the high altar is buried beneath the fallen debris."

"It is the image of the devastation of desolation. The angle where the south transept joins the apse is so badly damaged that a single shell striking above or at the side would bring down the whole and with it the blind arcade."

MONEY TO LOAN—On first mortgage in Alexandria and Rosemont. Apply to Howard W. Smith, 10 north Fairfax street.

Deviled Crabs, little neck clams and clam chowder at Rammel's Cafe.

The civil service commission announce an examination for road patrolman for service on about seven miles of road between Hunting Creek Bridge and Mount Vernon, Fairfax county. The salary is \$720 per year. Applications must be filed with the commission at Washington by May 22d.

The annual "May Ball" of the Junior German Club will be held this evening in the auditorium of the Elks' Home, in Prince street. The program will begin promptly at 8 o'clock, and all are earnestly requested to be in the hall and seated by that time to avoid confusion. The patronesses are the mothers of the members. Admission will be by card only and no one not in fancy costume will be allowed on the floor until after the supper intermission.

At the meeting of the city school board held last evening Superintendent Sweeney was authorized to permit the scholars of the various schools to celebrate the annual May pageant with a parade on Friday, May 18th. About eighteen hundred will take part, and the parade will be of a patriotic nature. The schools will close for the summer vacation on June 18. Teachers for the ensuing year will be elected at the regular June meeting of the school board instead of in July as has been the custom in previous years. The superintendent was instructed to employ the necessary teachers to take the places of those who have accepted other positions.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ARMY

Alexandria Young Men to Apply for
Commissions in the Officers' Reserve Corps.

James S. Douglas, Jr., receiving teller, James W. Roberts, note teller, and Charles A. Callahan, bookkeeper, all employees of the Citizens' National Bank of this city, have volunteered for service in the United States army and have made applications for commissions as officers in the reserve corps. The first two have already been accepted and have been ordered to report for further instructions at Fort Myer on May 14th. Mr. Callahan who was found to be slightly under weight, is to be given another examination, which it is thought he will be able to pass satisfactorily. At the end of the three months' instructions, if accepted, they will be granted commissions as officers and taken into the regular army.

The board of directors of the Citizens' Bank have voluntarily offered to grant them leave of absence and to hold their positions for them in the bank indefinitely, or until the men notify the directors that they will return for service in the bank. Their positions will be held for them until the termination of the war, if the men so desire. The action of the board of directors is certainly very commendable.

Miss Jean H. Roberts, daughter of Walter Roberts and sister of James W. Roberts, has volunteered her services to the bank during her brother's absence, and Miss Mary Hellmuth, daughter of William H. Hellmuth, is another volunteer and both young ladies will start in training for their bank duties at once before the young men leave.

Others Who Will Go.
Among other young men in the city who are to apply for commissions and take instruction at Fort Myer, it is said, are the following: Mr. C. Keith Carlin, William P. Woolis, Windsor Snowden, C. M. Shepperson, Charles Deahl, Robert Bitzer, Aylett Nicol, A. L. Uhler and Eugene Lindsey. It is stated that some of the latter have already passed their first examinations and have been ordered to report at Fort Myer by May 14th.

According to the latest reports the men will receive \$100 per month for the three months they are under instruction at Fort Myer and that after that time their pay will depend upon the grade of position they are appointed to, should they succeed in passing their final examination at the end of the three months.

Mrs. William Roberts and Mr. Powell T. Roberts are visiting relatives in Berlin and Ocean City, Md.

Miss Mildred Keller has returned from a visit to Miss Florence Purvis and Miss Frances Purvis, at their home in Charlottesville.

Arrangements are being made for a Red Cross benefit on Thursday, May 17th, at the Richmond Theatre. The proceeds of the affair will be used to purchase surgical supplies.

Mrs. Sallie Fendall Milstead died at her home near Pohick Church yesterday afternoon. The deceased was 86 years of age and is survived by two daughters and a son.

At the monthly meeting of the Free Kindergarten Association the following subscriptions were gratefully received: Mrs. Charles T. Lindsey, Miss V. A. Grigg, Miss Mary F. Grigg, Mrs. Clarence R. Keith, Miss Eliza Roberts, Miss Elizabeth Slaymaker, Mrs. Park Agnew, Mrs. J. W. Monroe, Mrs. Frank Watkins, Mrs. J. Stewart Jamieson, one dollar each, Miss Constance Boush five dollars. The Kindergarten reported a very successful mother's meeting when Miss Monroe gave a very instructive talk on first aid. The children had made a flag which is exhibited in Mr. Warfield's window. The association will hold its annual lawn party the last of May.

GERMAN REVOLUTIONISTS

Violent Circulars Issued, but Little
Headway Made.

Berne, May 4.—As indicative on the one hand that a revolutionary party exists in Germany that would like to emulate the Russian tactics and on the other hand that at present it is not making great headway, the Berne Tagewacht reproduces a circular which was secretly distributed among millions of German laborers prior to May 1, denouncing Field Marshal von Hindenburg's appeal to them not to strike as "the lying message of the idol of the imperialists."

The circular, says the newspaper, which naturally was suppressed by the authorities, is couched throughout in violent language. It declares the promises to increase the meat and potato rations to offset the reduction in the quantity of bread are only empty mouthings, since there are not sufficient cattle in Germany, and extra potatoes can be given only by drawing upon the seed crop, which in turn spells famine next winter.

The only solution, the circular continues, "is immediate peace—not the peace desired by the government, which is spoiling for the acquisition of territory and which is guided only by the interests of militarism, imperialism, junkers, and capitalists."

The circular calls upon workers to rise by the millions on the first of May, it concludes by saying "Down with the war!" and "Down with the government!"

AT THE RICHMOND.

"The Sting of Victory," a five-act war drama, featuring the well-known star, Henry Walthall, will be shown at the Richmond Monday Over 1000 soldiers take part in the picture, the First Regiment of the Illinois National Guard are seen in realistic battle scenes.

Scores of resolutions demanding an immediate peace were passed at Socialist meetings in Austria-Hungary on May Day. It adds that there were no serious disorders, but that the insistence of the people for peace is growing. More than twenty of the peace resolutions were passed in Vienna.

Fish, Clams, Oysters, Crabs, at Phone 307J, J. BRILL No. 2 King St.

RESULTS COUNT
In Printing as well as in all other business. Estimates cheerfully given. Commercial Press.
H. W. Wade, — Publishers.

WILL REGULATE PRICES

Sweeping Administration Bill Introduced in House by Chairman of
Agriculture Committee.

Absolute authority to regulate in its discretion the production, distribution and prices of food and other necessities during the war was asked of Congress yesterday by the administration.

In a sweeping bill introduced with administration approval by Chairman Lever, of the House agriculture committee, it is proposed to empower the President, under the war clause of the Constitution, to take these measures whenever in his opinion the national emergency shall require.

To fix maximum and minimum prices for food, clothing, fuel and other necessities, and the articles required for their production.

To prescribe regulations to govern the production of these commodities and if necessary to requisition the producing factories, mines or other establishments.

To compel holders of necessities to release them in amounts insuring equitable distribution.

To regulate exchanges in such a way as to eliminate market manipulation.

To compel railroads to give preference to the movement of necessities.

To levy such importation duties as he finds necessary to prevent excessive "dumping" of foreign products; and

To impose limitations or prohibitions upon the use of grain in the manufacture of liquors.

In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture would be empowered to establish standard food grades, to license and control the manufacture, storage and distribution of foods, to prescribe the percentage of flour to be milled from wheat, and to regulate the mixing of wheat flour with other flour in the making of bread and other food.

STILL WANTS INDEMNITIES.

Peace With German Victory Only
Can Bring Alleviation.

Amsterdam, May 4.—German newspapers publish an appeal for "a German peace," which is signed by a large number of unions and associations representing German agricultural, industrial and economic interests. The appeal says:

"Demands for peace without a war indemnity and territorial extension must be regarded by all patriots as depressing, paralyzing and shameful. Our task is to protect our frontier better, strengthen our influence at sea and by extending our production of raw materials promote our industries and insure our equipment for defense of the Fatherland."

ANOTHER GUARD FORMED.

Company C, Alexandria Home
Guards, Organized at Armory
Last Night With Forty Members.

The city of Alexandria is to have another company of home guards as the result of a meeting held in the armory on south Royal street last evening. It will be known as Company C, and will be under the command of the following named officers: Dr. Thomas B. Cochran, captain; William M. King, first lieutenant; Windsor W. Demaine, second lieutenant; R. H. C. Beverley, third lieutenant; Frederick Schneider, S. W. Pitts, Joseph Ewald, A. H. Smythe, James Foster, James McGowan and A. T. Sullivan, sergeants.

There are forty in the company at present and an effort will be made to increase the number up to one hundred. Drills will be held in the armory every Monday evening.

This makes the third company of home guards organized here within the past few weeks and should make the city a veritable armed camp, so to speak, when all three companies are fully equipped and drilled for service.

Maryland spring chickens at Rammel's cafe.

MUST PROCLAIM DANGER

Council of Defense Wants Every
Pulpit to Call on People to Defend
Flag.

Ministers of every denomination in Virginia will be asked by the Council of Defense to proclaim from their pulpits the acuteness of the situation now confronting the United States in its war with Germany and the necessity for every man in the State to dedicate his energies toward defending, in one way or another, the flag of his country.

Coupled with the appeal of the council will go a statement from Governor Stuart, emphasizing the seriousness of the condition in which the country now find itself and calling upon "every citizen, every man and woman, young and old, to come to the colors, either as a soldier in military ranks or as a soldier in the field of production and conservation of the resources which we are to contribute to the sum total of America's fighting strength."

The letter to the ministers, which is being sent out by Colonel W. M. Hunley, executive secretary to the council, reads as follows:

"The Virginia Council of Defense, recently organized by the Governor, bespeaks your help in its efforts to arouse the citizens of this State to a realization of the gravity of the situation that confronts us."

"A copy of the Government's announcement of the establishment of the council is inclosed."

"May we ask that you read and emphasize the importance of this significant statement by the chief magistrate of the State at one or more of the services in your church on Sunday?"

"This is a matter, we believe, that demands the prayerful and earnest consideration of every element of our population. We ask your active co-operation in the efforts now being made to unite all the people of this Commonwealth in understanding the nature of the crisis we are now facing and in determination to meet it with adequate measures; whatever they may be."

The Governor's statement is as follows:

"The United States, our country, is at war."

"The seriousness of the situation in all its aspects is not fully recognized by the masses of the people. They must be aroused to a realization of our dangers and our responsibilities. A supreme effort must be made by each State in the use of its governmental machinery and in the dedication of the individual and collective influence and energy of its citizens to the common purpose of strengthening the arm of the nation upon which we must rely for victory and permanent peace."

"Virginia today calls upon every citizen, every man and woman, young and old, to come to the colors, either as a soldier in the field of production and conservation of the resources which we are to contribute to the sum total of America's fighting strength."

"To the end that Virginia's part may rise to the full height of the inspiration afforded by the great cause to which we are committed and that her services may know no measure but her opportunity, it is necessary that all her potential energies be classified and organized in such a way as to gear into a great National system of defense."

Notice to our Patrons.

We the undersigned, barbers of Alexandria find it absolutely necessary to change our prices on shaving to fifteen cents. We beg to say to our friends that we are about the last in the state or states to be forced into changing our price. We regret the necessity, but the high cost of living, and shop supplies forces us against our wishes, to take this step. For the past year every article we use has advanced far beyond the original price.

This change will take effect, Monday May 7th, 1917.

We will also close at seven o'clock, except Saturdays.

Signed:
M. B. Shifflet, F. L. Plitt,
C. W. Valentine, A. L. Humphries,
J. Seigel, A. L. Tancil,
J. R. Howard, S. B. Ross,
F. E. Jackson, H. P. Tancil & Son,
104-St. Alexandria, Va. May 1, 1917

FOR SALE—16 shares stock Alexandria Water Company. Apply to P. O. Box 362 1-106-36.